

and understood as it is at present; but now they would be regarded as detestable—ruinous to any architect who should perpetrate them. We hope the Agricultural Society will keep St. Peter's Church as a warning before them; and will, if they have conceived such an abomination as we have hinted at, renounce it forthwith, seeking the advice of some of our architects who feel the character of our forefathers' buildings, as in what should be done to preserve with consistency this college, which is really one of the best features of Maidstone. The town is disgraced if it be spoilt."

### Correspondence.

#### ARCHITECTS' REMUNERATION—GAOL AT BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,—I have perused with pleasure the articles written by you, and letters from able correspondents on the subject of competition, which have from time to time appeared in your journal, and I hope that they may assist in gaining the desired end; but all that may be written and said about the evils of competition will avail little or nothing, unless there be a determination amongst architects themselves to resist every thing approaching to such competition. Why not refuse to reply to advertisements for plans, &c., and the system would be put a stop to immediately?

There may be and are benefits arising from the system, but the evils with which it is accompanied far outweigh the good.

Upon the score of remuneration much has been said, and the case of the building at Luton, referred to by you, was bad enough, but that of the gaol at Birmingham was much worse; and I regret that it was not exposed at the time. The committee of the latter were not quite so modest as they of Luton, but advertised for "tenders for making plans, specification, &c., and superintending the work of the proposed borough gaol;" and I am credibly informed, that the architect who is carrying out the work is employed for a remuneration of "half the usual per centage, and pays clerk of the works." No wonder the profession is considered of so little account, when their services may be had so cheaply.

I am, Sir, &c., A LOOKER-ON.  
Birmingham, May 19, 1846.

#### PRACTICAL QUESTION.

SIR,—The diameter of the main in a certain water-works is 30 inches; but instead of this, it is proposed to distribute the water through seven equal pipes of the same sectional area, when taken together, as the main. Will any of your correspondents give the method of finding the diameter of the smaller pipe geometrically,—I am, Sir, &c. ZKKO.

**SOCIETY FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.**—The second annual meeting of this society was held in the Hanover-square Rooms on the 22nd instant, Lord Ashley in the chair. A donation of 100*l.* from His Royal Highness Prince Albert was announced, together with an apology for his non-attendance. A report of the progress of the "model lodging house" at Pentonville was read, and the erection of a second in St. Giles's was announced. The society does not appear to be by any means very popular, as the room was not nearly half full, and the proceedings and speeches were cut short by the premature departure of most of those who did attend, and even of the noble chairman himself, the Bishop of Norwich, and many more of the committee.

**FINE PICTURE BY MR. HABERZETTEL.**—Mr. Haberszettel, a member of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, has brought to England an historical painting of "St. John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness," and has opened it for exhibition at 213, Piccadilly. It is a work of very high class. Next week we shall speak of it more at length. The size is eighteen feet by fourteen feet.

**LARGE WATER COLOUR PAINTING.**—One of the largest works in water colours ever attempted, is now being exhibited in Stanley's rooms, Old Bond-street. The subject is the Angel delivering Daniel from the lions; the artist, Mr. James Burbank. The size is twenty feet by twelve feet. It is very highly finished, and well deserves a visit.

### Miscellaneous.

**REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS ON THE GAUGE QUESTION.**—This Report, if carried out, although enveloped in a kind of official coyness, is nothing less than a decree for abolishing the broad, and establishing the universality of the narrow national uniformity of gauge. The Great Western Company feel this to be the case, and have zealously laboured, ever since the publication of this important document, to destroy its effect. Observations, replies, rejoinders, and sur-rejoinders, daily and weekly articles, and pamphlets, have swarmed from the modern *ultima ratio* of disputants—THE PRESS. Many ingenious arguments, much wit, some ill-humour, and spirit of partizanship of the bitterest character, has been exhibited on both sides. We have even seen a Directorate, including a Conservative peer and a Conservative commoner, patronizing attacks imputing ignorance and partiality to the Queen's own arbitrators. Under these circumstances, it is quite evident that that large body of the public, who, not holding shares in either gauges, and not allied by blood, friendship, patronage, or gentility, with either of the belligerent directing powers, but selfishly, only anxious to have themselves, their goods, chattels, merchandise, and manufactures, conveyed to and from every part of the kingdom, with the greatest possible convenience, comfort, safety, speed, and punctuality, at the lowest possible cost, will treat with great indifference, if not suspicion, the vehement assertions and hypothetical statements of both the broad and narrow houses. To supply, in a somewhat condensed form, the opinions, facts, and figures rendered before the commissioners by the more remarkable of the forty-seven engineers, engine-makers, railway managers, carriers, miners, and railway contractors, this volume has been prepared from the vast blue folio in which their evidence at present lies entombed.—*The Railway System Illustrated.*

**AN IRON SKEW BRIDGE.**—A very bold and ingenious specimen of a skew bridge, says the *Mechanics' Magazine*, is now erecting on the line of the North British Railway, at the south foot of the Calton-hill, Edinburgh. It consists of six strong beams of cast iron, each composed of four or five pieces joined with rivets, and cast in the form of an arch. They are about 80 feet long; the roadway from wall to wall is 26 feet broad, and has a narrow foot-path on each side, at the outer edge of which cast iron columns are placed, supporting the beams at 10 or 12 feet from either extremity. The beams rest on their ends on solid masonry, and fastened to each other by strong wrought-iron bars running across them at right angles. The angle of the skew—assuming the clear space, from wall to wall, along the beam to be 74, which we believe is very near the truth, and the actual breadth of the road and foot-path being 26 feet—it follows that the obliquity, or the angle of the skew, is 20 degrees.

**EVILS OF BAD DRAINAGE.**—It has been shewn, almost beyond question, that the numerous deaths in Hull by typhus fever, are mainly owing to the imperfect cleansing and drainage of the place. Dr. W. Pettigrew, in a letter on an apprehended visitation of cholera, in London, says: "Defective ventilation, insufficient supply of water, bad drainage, open or untrapped gully-holes, cess-pools, and an unhealthy condition of the courts, alleys, and small streets, are sure to give rise to fever." Dr. Guy remarks, that fever "makes itself at home in the neighbourhood of cess-pools, and badly-constructed drains, and takes an especial delight in the incense of gully-holes. It has a perfect horror of fresh air, soap, and white-wash, but when left to itself will linger for years amid scenes of filth and corruption, and fold in its deadly embrace all human beings who have the same depraved taste, or are so unfortunate as to be thrown into its company. It is the favourite child of *laissez faire* (in plain English, *let alone*), and bears the same relation to filth as crime does to ignorance."

**BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES FOR THE POOR.**—The London Committee have petitioned Parliament to empower boroughs and towns to establish institutions similar to that in Glasshouse-yard, and to limit the rates of charge. The latter establishment is said to be in a thriving condition.

**A HINT TO EMPLOYERS.**—A gentleman entertaining humane and considerate views, was some years ago, appointed superintendent of a large manufactory in England. In this establishment he soon had occasion to observe that a certain number of workmen were regular in attendance, steady, and economical; while the others were of contrary habits, unsteady, uneconomical, great drinkers, and with families in wretchedness. This had been the case for a long course of years, and nobody about the works thought of inquiring into the cause of the phenomenon. The new superintendent was not one of those persons who never inquire into anything, and let the world go on in its own old way. As soon as he observed the curious difference, he did not rest till he had discovered the cause of it. On inquiry, he found that all the steady men got a fixed or regular weekly wage, and that all the unsteady ones, though receiving a larger revenue in the aggregate, got it in lumps at irregular intervals, just as they happened to be employed on a particular kind of work. To know the cause of the evil was to set about eradicating it. With the consent of the unsteady hands, he began the practice of paying them every week a certain fixed sum, whether they had earned it or not, carrying forward the balance, if any, to their credit; the accumulated balances to be paid quarterly. The effect of this arrangement, it is said, was marvellous. Very soon the unsteady became as steady as the other members of the establishment. Their wives and families were better dressed; their homes became comfortable; and by-and-by several of these men saved so much money as to be able to buy houses—actually became proprietors, and drew rents like other landlords. Nor were they ungrateful to the person who had thus put them in the way of well-doing. They looked upon him as a general benefactor. A few years ago, when visiting the place, and calling on one of the parties, both husband and wife looked round their cheerful dwelling, and said to him, "All this we owe to you."—*Chambers's Journal.*

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY AT DOVER.

—The workmen, in clearing the ground for the erection of some new houses in the Priory grounds, have developed three of the lower arches of a church or chapel; one only of these was perfect when opened, but we regret to learn that it was displaced by a fall of the earth adjoining. The whole is of the Norman style, and built of Caen stone. The floor was paved with glazed tiles of the period, many of which are in good preservation; under the tiles was turned up a structure of burnt wood, which seems to shew that a chapel standing on the same site had been destroyed by fire.—*Dover Telegraph.*

**SCAFFOLDING IN ST. PAUL'S.**—The interesting meeting of the charity children of the metropolis will take place at the cathedral of St. Paul, on Thursday, the 4th June, when many distinguished visitors are expected to attend, as well as foreigners. The scaffolding for the accommodation of 5,000 children and 7,000 or 8,000 visitors, is superintended by Mr. Newman, the honorary architect to the society of patrons of the anniversary meeting of the charity children. This splendid exhibition of Christian benevolence is not to be witnessed in any other part of the world.

**ENCOURAGEMENT TO LARGED PROPRIETORS TO PLANT LARCH AND SOFT FIR.**—The wood at Piscotie brought the large sum of 5,500*l.*; and, with that part sold about three years ago for 700*l.*, makes the sum total received for 138 imperial acres, 6,200*l.* Besides this, the thinnings have for these last twenty years, on an average, brought 60*l.* per annum. This wood was planted in 1793, by the late Mr. Thomas, of Rumguy, on that part of Ceres Muir which became his property on the division of that commonity, and was valued at that period at 4*s.* per acre of annual rent.

**THE CITY OF LONDON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.**—The bankers, merchants, and other principal persons in the city, have, it appears, contributed 5,200*l.* within the last few months, towards the erection of six new school rooms with houses for masters and mistresses attached.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONGRESS.**—Rumours have reached us of an arrangement, that architects from all parts of the world will hold a general congress of architects every three years, the first to take place at Athens. The scheme is somewhat visionary.